

## Message Text

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51

ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-14 ISO-00 SWF-02 EB-11 IGA-02 IO-14

INR-11 PC-10 SCI-06 USIA-15 DODE-00 AGR-20 INT-08

COME-00 RSC-01 DRC-01 /185 W

----- 033047

R 101240Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY BAMA KO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9618

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

UNCLAS BAMA KO 2533

E O 11652 N A

TAGS: EAID

SUBJ: TRANS-SAHARAN GRAIN CONVOYS

REF: BAMA KO 2477

NASH, SULLIVAN AND FISHBEIN RETURNED FROM GAO AUG 9, WITH THIS  
REPORT:

FOURTH TRUCK CONVOY ARRIVED AT GAO MORNING OF  
AUG 9 AND DISCHARGED THE SAME DAY. THERE WERE EIGHT TRUCKS, ONE OF  
WHICH WAS APPROX HALF-LOADED AND CONTAINED DREGS FROM DOCKS AT ORAN,  
IN MULTIPLE STYLE AND SIZE BAGS RANGING IN CAPACITY FROM 2 TO  
100 KILOS. BAGS OF VARYING SIZES WERE FOUND THROUGHOUT THE FOURTH  
CONVOY, MAKING TONNAGE ESTIMATES DIFFICULT. BAGS WERE OF POOR  
QUALITY AND THERE WAS SIGNIFICANT BREAKAGE ON THE HALF-LOADED  
TRUCK (APPROX 30 BAGS), BUT MALIANS WERE REBAGGING AT THE WAREHOUSE  
SITE

USING BAGS FROM PREVIOUS SHIPMENTS THAT HAD BEEN EMPTIED AT CAMPS.  
MALIANS NOW HAVE IN GAO FIVE WAREHOUSES HOLDING ORAN GRAIN,  
THREE HOLDING COTONOU GRAIN, AND ONE HOLDING AIRLIFTED CSM,  
ASIDE FROM WAREHOUSES AT EACH CAMP.

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ORIGINALLY, NINE TRUCKS OF THE FOURTH CONVOY WERE TO DISCHARGE UPCOUNTRY (REF A) FOUR AT TESSALIT AND FIVE AT AGUEHOK. THIS BREAK-DOWN AS APPROVED BY THE GOVERNOR. BUT FISHBEIN, AID CHECKER WHO WENT WITH RETURNING SECOND CONVOY TRUCKS TO TESSALIT AND AGUEHOK AND MET FOURTH CONVOY ENROUTE, REPORTED THAT WHEN FOURTH CONVOY ARRIVED AT AGUEHOK AFTER LEAVING DISCHARGED FOUR TRUCKS AT TESSALIT, THE MALIAN OFFICIAL THERE INSISTED ON DISCHARGING NINE TRUCKS AT AGUEHOK.

THE ALGERIAN CONVOY CHIEF AND FISHBEIN QUESTIONED THIS, BUT THE LOCAL OFFICIAL INSISTED THAT THAT WAS HIS ORDERS. WHEN FISHBEIN RETURNED TO GAO WITH FOURTH CONVOY AND INFORMED THE GOVERNOR. HE WAS SURPRISED AND SAID THAT THERE MUST HAVE BEEN A MIX-UP. ADDED UNLOADING TIME UPCOUNTRY WAS REASON FOR THE CONVOY'S LATE ARRIVAL IN GAO. THIS BRINGS THE TOTAL NUMBER OF TRUCKS THAT DISCHARGED UPCOUNTRY FOR THE FOUR CONVOYS TO 15 ( 5 1/2 AT TESSALIT, 9 1/2 AT AGUEHOK). ABOUT 300 TONS#(FOOTNOTE) FISHBEIN INSPECTED THE WAREHOUSES AND UNLOADING PROCEDURES AT AGUEHOK AND SAID THAT THEY WERE IDENTICAL TO THE ONES PREVIOUSLY DESCRIBED AT GAO (REFTEL), AND THAT THERE WAS A CAREFUL SYSTEM OF ACCOUNTING.

WITH REGARD TO WET GRAIN FROM FIRST TWO CONVOYS (REF A), AN UPWARDLY REVISED ESTIMATE OF 200 BAGS WAS OBTAINED BY NASH FROM ACTING CHIEF OPAM OFFICIAL IN GAO. HOWEVER THE GRAIN IS NOT SPOILED AND IS BEING DISTRIBUTED TO CAMPS BEFORE THE OTHER GRAIN.

#EXTRA 100 TONS OFFLOADED IN TESSALIT AND AGUEHOK SHOULD NOT CAUSE ANY SUPPLY PROBLEM IN GAO GIVEN ABUNDANT GRAIN SUPPLIES NOW ACCUMULATING THERE VIA ORAN, AIRLIFT, AND HOPEFULLY VIA COTONOU NEAR FUTURE.  
KUNIHOLM

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